



THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION
The Center for Charitable Giving®



Family Philanthropy Primer

Tools for Effectively Giving Together



Developing a Family Giving Plan

FINDING YOUR PASSIONS AND TRANSLATING THEM INTO A PHILANTHROPIC GAME PLAN

The giving of your resources and time to help others is one of the most personal acts you can make. Making this contribution as a family is an extraordinary opportunity—for you, your family, and your community.

To support you in developing the approach that works best for you and your family, we have developed this primer. The following worksheets can serve as a catalyst to help you think through the initial issues and identify your shared family values that ultimately will help you create a process that maximizes the strengths of your family.

These handouts are designed for families interested in taking the first steps in developing a more strategic approach to their charitable giving. We also encourage you to request *The Family Philanthropy Workbook*, a more in-depth resource that will guide you step by step through the planning process.

We hope you find this primer a useful tool to help you and your family get started.

This publication reflects insight from The Philanthropic Initiative, Inc. (TPI), experts in family philanthropy. Located in Boston, Massachusetts, TPI specializes in helping families increase the impact of charitable giving.

Worksheet 2 Shared Family Values

The following questions can serve as a catalyst for you to identify your family's core shared values and the relationship of those values to your charitable giving. *The simplest way to use them is first as a personal reflection exercise, completed by each individual family member. Next, the family comes together to discuss and explore areas of commonality. Much of the benefit of this exercise comes from the shared conversation.*

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. List three influential experiences in your life. How did they shape your core values?
2. List three people (they could be family members, other people you know or historic figures) who have been strong influences on you. What values did they transmit to you?
3. What is important to you and what values guide the choices you make in life? Please list your five top values. (If needed, see attached inventory of values.)
4. How do the values you have identified speak to the kind of giver you want to be?
5. What values did your parents pass on to you? What do you consider your common family-of-origin values?

Family Discussion Guide

Together with other family members, share and discuss your answers to the individual reflection questions, especially 3 and 5. *You may want to put them up on a piece of easel paper for clear viewing. Identify values or clusters of values that seem to be shared by many in the family. Elaborate on them by sharing family stories illustrating the values.*

DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. What are the core family values? What does the family stand for? Narrow down your list to 4-6 core values.
2. How do these values speak to the kind of philanthropy that the family wants to do? The philanthropy that the family wants to be known for?
3. Do they have implications for the kinds of organizations and causes that the family wants to support?
4. Do they have implications for how the family wants to work together in philanthropy?

SEE HOW YOU CAN USE THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS TO DEFINE YOUR FAMILY PHILANTHROPY VISION, MISSION, GOALS AND APPROACHES TO WORKING TOGETHER. CONTINUALLY TEST AND REFINE THESE VALUES AS YOU OBSERVE THE PHILANTHROPIC CHOICES THAT THE FAMILY MAKES.

6.

Values Inventory

FROM THE LIST BELOW, SELECT WHAT YOU SEE AS YOUR SIX MOST IMPORTANT VALUES.

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Acceptance | Achievement | Acknowledgement |
| Adventure | Agility | Arts |
| Beauty | Change | Collaboration |
| Comfort | Commitment | Community |
| Compassion | Conservation | Courage |
| Creativity | Democracy | Dignity |
| Diversity | Education | Equality |
| Expertise | Fairness | Faith |
| Flexibility | Freedom | Generosity |
| Happiness | Harmony | Health |
| Honesty | Humility | Innovation |
| Integrity | Involvement | Justice |
| Knowledge | Leadership | Love |
| Loyalty | Mastery | Merit |
| Open Communication | Opportunity | Peace |
| Personal Growth | Preservation | Pride |
| Privacy | Respect | Responsibility |
| Security | Self-expression | Self-reliance |
| Service | Stability | Stewardship |

Notes:

8.

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